

# Inside Wallops

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Goddard Space Flight Center  
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## NASA Congratulates SpaceShipOne's X Prize Win

NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe today congratulated the SpaceShipOne team on the third successful flight of a private human spacecraft.

The team also wins the \$10 million X Prize competition.

"Burt Rutan, Paul Allen and the rest of the SpaceShipOne team are to be congratulated for this important achievement. They successfully demonstrating a new human spacecraft, a new propulsion system and a new high-altitude airborne launch platform," said Administrator O'Keefe.

"The spirit of determination and innovation demonstrated today show that America is excited about a new century of exploration and discovery. We wish the SpaceShipOne team continued success and many more safe flights," he added.

The X Prize Foundation created a \$10 million prize designed to encourage space tourism through competition among entrepreneurs, engineers and other rocketry experts.

The Ansari X Prize was conceived to reward the team, which designed the first private spaceship to successfully fly to a sub-orbital altitude of just over 62 miles (100 kilometers) on two consecutive flights within two weeks.

The competition was modeled after the Orteig Prize, won in 1927 by Charles Lindberg for the first non-stop flight between New York and Paris. All teams had to be privately financed.

For information about SpaceShipOne and the White Knight carrier aircraft on the Internet, visit: <http://www.scaled.com/>

## Wallops Shorts Balloon Launch

A four million cubic foot NASA scientific balloon was launched from Ft. Sumner, N.M., on September 29. The balloon carried the Cryogenic Whole Air Sampler (CWAS) instrument that is designed to obtain a high resolution profile of stratospheric trace gases. Dr. Elliot Atlas, University of Florida, was the principal investigator. Float altitude was 85,000 feet. Total flight time was 8 hours, 9 minutes.

## In the News

SpaceNews

"DARPA Rocket Contracts Include Launch Deal for SpaceX"

## DARPA, Air Force Kick-Off Falcon Phase II Small Launch Vehicle Effort

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and the U.S. Air Force have awarded funding to four teams for the second phase of the Falcon Small Launch Vehicle (SLV) program. The goal of the Falcon SLV program is to develop and demonstrate an affordable and responsive space lift capability.

Under the newly awarded agreements, each team will conduct a 10-month Phase IIa preliminary design and development effort to mature their launch vehicle designs. In addition, one of the companies, Space Exploration Technologies, will conduct an early, responsive launch demonstration.

Next year, DARPA and the Air Force will select one or more of the Phase IIa teams to conduct detailed design and fabrication of their launch vehicle. Phase IIb will culminate in 2007 with flight tests to launch a small satellite to validate vehicle performance.

In addition to DARPA and the Air Force, NASA has also expressed interest in the Small Launch Vehicle capability and is a formal partner in the Falcon Small Launch Vehicle development program.

## Quarterly Aviation Safety Award



Photo by Rich Rogers.

Wallops Airport Control Tower operators, Jim Barnes and Paul "Red" Salyers, Dyncorp a CSC Co., recently received the Quarterly Aviation Safety Award and were recognized for their hard work and vigilance in keeping the Wallops airfield and airspace safe.

(left to right): Gary Richardson, Wallops Senior Manager for Dyncorp, a CSC Co.; Jim Barnes, Paul Salyers, and Craig Purdy, Deputy Director, NASA Suborbital and Special Orbital Projects.

## NFB Sends Thanks

To Dr. Ed Weiler: "I want to thank you for the extraordinary work that you and others have contributed to the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) science camps in 2004. These science camps represent an initial effort to address systematically bringing blind people (especially young blind students) into the scientific community. Too often blind people have been prohibited or discouraged from entering the fields of science.

Phil Eberspeaker was an extraordinary leader and teacher in the science camp involving the rocket. ....Keith Koehler and Jack Vieira were also extraordinarily helpful..... It is an honor to work with you and your colleagues....."

Marc Maurer, President  
National Federation of the Blind



## A Mild End to Summer by Bob Steiner, Meteorologist

September came and went leaving our area little weather to remember. We experienced 14 days with above average recorded highs and 17 nights with above average lows. The average temperature for the month was 70.6 degrees, which was 2.1 degrees above the monthly average. The highest temperature recorded was 86 degrees on September 22. The coolest morning was September 21 with a reading of 51 degrees. No record temperatures were set or tied during September 2004.

With several hurricanes and tropical storms on the East Coast, only two tropical systems threatened the Wallops area. One caused significant rainfall. Ivan passed well to our west and brought no precipitation to the region. Jeanne passed south of Wallops Island on September 27 and 28 bringing 0.66 inches of rain. The total for the month of 2.78 inches is .72 inches below the normal of 3.48 inches. The greatest one day total rainfall was 1.7 inches recorded on September 15.

Wallops Flight Facility experienced six days with winds gusting too greater than

## Balloon Drop Tests Underway



Photo courtesy of Balloon Office

*The first in a series of balloon drop tests from an aerostat was conducted on September 23. A 1-meter diameter Paraballoon was released from approximately 100 feet above the surface and inflated quickly. The tests support the Mars Montgolfiere Project.*

30 mph. The strongest gusts of 38 mph occurred on the September 17 and 18.

Fall has arrived. Moving into November, expect daytime highs of 64 degrees to start November, cooling to near 50 degrees by the end of the month. Overnight lows in November average near 47 degrees at the first of the month and drop to 34 degrees on average for the end of the month. The record high for November of 83 degrees occurred on Nov. 1 and 4, 1974. The record low for November is 19 degrees, the last of three occurrences being on Nov. 24, 1976. We can expect to have eight days with measurable precipitation averaging 2.69 inches for the month. Measurable snow falls rarely during November depositing an average of 1.2 inches of the white stuff.

With the return to Eastern Standard Time on the October 31, we will have five months of shorter days and longer nights. Now is the time to look for cold weather gear and be prepared for the onset of winter and the holiday season.

## Flu Shots Available

The influenza (flu) vaccine has arrived.

Flu shots will be available to NASA civil service employees by appointment from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. beginning October 6. There is a Vaccine Information Sheet to read prior to giving consent to receive the vaccine and a wait of 20 minutes in the Health Unit after receiving the vaccine is recommended Call the Health Unit at x1266 to make an appointment.

## Fall Festival 2004



*Hayrides and sack races were a hit at the Fall Festival held October 2.*



Photos by Debbie Fairbrother

## For Sale

2003 Ford F650 Supercab. 35,000 miles. Caterpillar engine and 6-speed manual transmission. Aluminum wheels, Atlas 60.1 crane with 40 foot boom, custom 14 ft. service body with a 36 inch workbench and vise. Power windows and doors. Lowtime welding machine with leads and 100 gallon aluminum transfer tank and 110-volt transfer pump included. Asking Price \$59,900. Call (703)367-0950.

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www.wff.nasa.gov

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